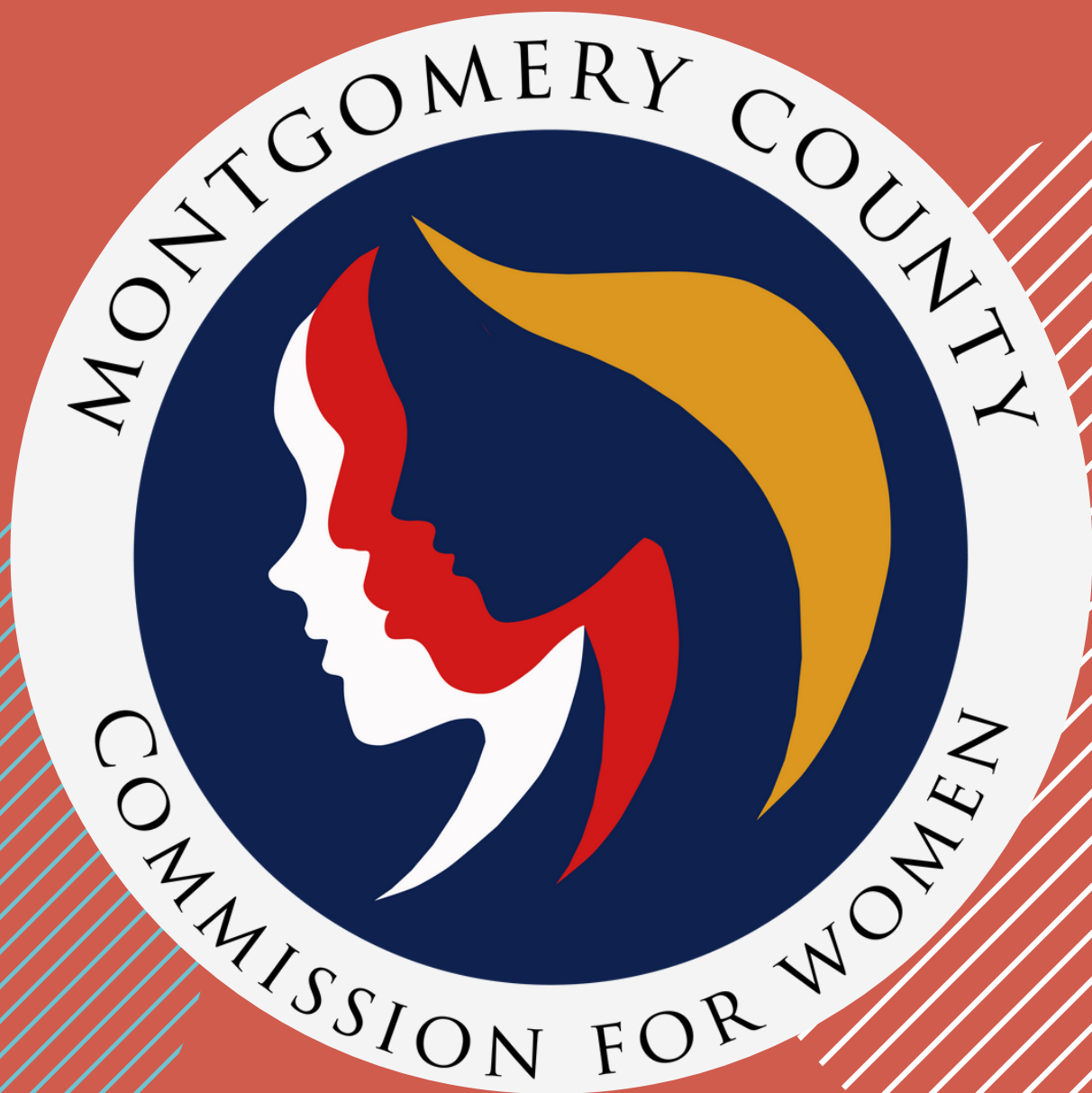


MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022



ADVANCING WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN
MONTGOMERY COUNTY SINCE 1972

21 MARYLAND AVENUE, SUITE 330 • ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND, 20850
240-777-8300 • WWW.MONTGOMERYCOUNTYMD.GOV/CFW

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Donna Rojas, Chair

Patricia Maclay, Vice-Chair

Tonia Bui, Second Vice-Chair

Isabel Argoti, Secretary

COMMISSIONERS

Arlinda J. Clark

Nicole Y. Drew

Ijeoma E. Enendu

Jan Molino

Diana Rubin

Betty Romero

Chai Shenoy (Resigned September 2022)

Meredith Weisel (Resigned January 2022)

TEAM MEMBERS:

Jodi Finkelstein, Executive Director

Oyin Thompson, Program Manager

Holly Mancuso, University of Maryland School of Social Work Intern

Gabby Tomasi, High School Intern

Ashlyn Davis, High School Intern

Ethan Schenker, High School Intern

Ruby Topalian, High School Intern



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR DONNA ROJAS

On behalf of the Montgomery County Commission for Women (MCCFW), I am pleased to share how the Commission continues to achieve and excel. In fiscal year 2022, we celebrated the Commission's 50th year of incredible work, accomplishments, and triumphs. This celebration was commemorated with a proclamation presented to the MCCFW by the Montgomery County Executive and Montgomery County Council at the Sandy Spring Museum in Sandy Spring, MD, and the burial of a time capsule. A separate event was held for the community at the Wheaton Regional Park.

The work of our commission has never been more critical. As women, our united voice is crucial to ensuring human decency, fairness, and a sustainable future for our children. Our voices make a difference in every aspect of our lives, whether it's full possession of our personhood or making a difference at the ballot box, which is why our theme for the 2022 Women's Legislative Briefing (WLB) was "Voting Women Change Everything." Over 500 women attended this virtually, and participants noted that the WLB met their expectations. Our Emerging Leaders indicated that their sessions increased their education on the subject matter areas of interest.

Our commitment to providing much-needed programs continued in FY22 with a few pop-up sessions to address women's sexual health and wellness and financial planning for children with special needs. On a scale of 1 to 5, participants rate the seminars anywhere from 4 to 5. 98% of participants indicated that they felt prepared to use what was learned within the next six months.

We continued to recognize and celebrate women who serve in Montgomery County through our Women Making History program in collaboration with Montgomery Women and our Girl Power Contest in partnership with Montgomery County Public Libraries.

From a legislative perspective, the Commission continued lobbying on the state level regarding selected priority bills. On the local level, the commission testified on behalf of the Right to Nourish Act and Paid Parental Leave Act.

We are proud of our advocacy for the county's women and girls, as our work over this past year has been transformational for the lives of women and girls across our great county. As Chair of the Commission, I am honored and humbled to serve our women and girls. I am confident that we will continue to achieve our goals through continued hard work, focus, and collaboration.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT JODI FINKELSTEIN, MSW

The new fiscal year began on July 1, 2021. While the Montgomery County Commission for Women, the County, and the nation recovered from the challenges the pandemic left in our communities, the Commission continued working tirelessly to serve all women and girls of the county.

Our programs continued serving the public on topics related to separation and divorce, introductory self-defense seminars, and financial and wellness literacy. Adding to its successful programs, this was a very special year in that the Commission celebrated its 50th Anniversary, where we recognized the incredible work, accomplishments, and triumphs of the Montgomery County Commission for Women.

For the 2022 Maryland General Assembly session, the Commission supported legislation related to women's health care, safety, and abortion access settings. To ensure everyone's health and safety due to COVID-19, all of the Commission's programs and meetings remained online, including the 42nd annual Women's Legislative Briefing.

I'm pleased to highlight the work of the Commission from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 in the following pages.

EMERGING LEADERS COMMITTEE

Chair: Meredith Weisel

Committee members: Angela Whitehead Quigley

The Emerging Leaders Committee focused on two projects this year: the Girl Power Contest and the Emerging Leaders Track as part of the Women’s Legislative Briefing.

Girl Power Contest

The fifth annual Girl Power Contest took place March 1–March 31. The contest celebrates Women’s History Month by asking participants to answer a question related to women and girls. Participants may enter a song, poem, picture—anything creative—that answers the question posed.

The question for March 2022 was:

What do you see as the three biggest accomplishments women have achieved over the last 50 years? What three accomplishments do you believe would make the biggest impact over the next 50 years?

Winners were announced via press release and social media in May 2022.

5TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
2022 GIRL POWER CONTEST
The CFW is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022!

Submit a short story, poem, drawing, or any medium of your choice to answer the following:
What do you see as the three biggest accomplishments women have achieved over the last 50 years?
What three accomplishments do you believe would make the biggest impact over the next 50 years?

March 1st - 31st
Entries are due midnight on March 31, 2022

Contest is open to all, ages 5 and up
Enter Today!

MC Montgomery County PL PUBLIC LIBRARIES friends LIBRARY MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

5TH ANNUAL 2022 GIRL POWER CONTEST WINNERS!

Adult
First Place: Pamela Gordimer
Honorable Mentions: Natalie Jean

High School
First Place: Marika Campbell-Blue
Honorable Mention: Mariana Ortiz

Middle School
First Place: Nubian Lloyd
Honorable Mention: Sara Benachenhou

Elementary School
First Place: Arya Krishnan
Honorable Mention: Julia Liao

#mococfw #girlpowercontest

Emerging Leaders (EL) and the Women’s Legislative Briefing:

The Committee was pleased to offer Student Service Learning (SSL) hours for the first time this year. Students that participated in the Emerging Leaders session and followed specific guidelines were eligible for up to three SSL hours. Students participated in two seminars: (1) Educate Yourself and (2) Making My Voice Heard. Seventy-three middle and high schoolers registered for the online event. After the sessions, students were asked to complete a survey and share their thoughts about the EL topics.

About “Educate Yourself,” students were asked, “What do you see as your part in preventing misinformation from taking root?” Responses included:

1. “I should not spread rumors or talk about things I am unsure about. If I hear someone else spreading a rumor, I will talk to them.”
2. “My part in preventing misinformation is checking news sources before talking about them and telling others the truth.”
3. “Make sure you have all the facts before spewing out false information.”

Under “Making My Voice Heard!” students were asked, “Name one group you attended and tell how they might help you grow personally.” Responses included:

1. “In one group, I learned about how you could find more important information about people who are campaigning, which motivated me to learn more about people I may vote for before voting in the future.”
2. “In media I learned that I can share my story and other’s with the world. But, I also learned that I should do it safely.”
3. “Choose Respect might help me grow personally by making me realize that dating violence is something that people should know and talk about.”

The Commission would like to thank Melissa Mckenna for her hard work on the EL track, particularly for overseeing the SSL approval process.

The Emerging Leaders speaker at the WLB was Hannah Quigley, a senior at Glenelg Country School, who had participated in numerous EL events since middle school.

Earn 3 MCP's SSL Hours

Student Registration \$5

2022 **VIRTUAL WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING**

EMERGING LEADERS

Students in Grades 6-12

VOTING WOMEN CHANGE EVERYTHING

Sunday, January 30, 2022
12:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Main Opening Sessions: 12:30 p.m. - 1:55 p.m.

Session 1: Educate Yourself! 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Learn how to identify credible and reliable media sources.	Session 2: Making My Voice Heard! 3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Amplify your voice before you can vote! Join this "Show and Tell" to learn how.
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<https://2022wlbgeneraltickets.eventbrite.com>
Questions? Please call (240) 777-8333

POLICY & LEGISLATION (PAL) COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Diana Rubin

Committee Members: Jan Molino, Betty Romero, Donna Rojas, Nicole Y. Drew, Esq.

The Policy and Legislative Committee continued its robust roster of advocacy activities by hosting its fourth annual Lobby Day for current and past Commissioners on December 15, 2021. The Lobby Day was held on Zoom because of COVID-19. Delegate Ariana Kelly (D-16) served as our keynote speaker and kicked off the event with an inspirational address.

We were also joined by Senator Will Smith (D-20), Senator Jeff Waldstreicher (D-18), Senator Susan Lee (D-16), Senator Benjamin Kramer (D-19), Senator Brian Feldman (D-15), Delegate David Moon (D-20), Delegate Lesley Lopez (D-39), Delegate Emily Shetty (D-18), Delegate Lorig Charkoudian (D-20), Delegate Pam Queen (D-14), and Delegate Alfred Carr (D-18).

The Committee focused on five legislative priorities: (1) Time to Care Act, (2) Abortion Care Access Act of 2022, (3) Repeal of Marriage as a Defense to Sex Crimes, (4) Stalking, and (5) Safe Harbor. Each priority bill was selected in accordance with the full Commission's priorities – women's economic empowerment, safety and security, health, and women in leadership.

Due to COVID-19, Commissioners were only able to submit written testimony on bills, as verbal testimony was reserved for delegates/senators sponsoring bills and selected individuals and groups. Despite these limitations, the Committee and Commission:

- Conducted Social Media Outreach to Increase Awareness and Action: Twitter and Facebook were used to inform the community about the substance and progress of the priority issues and our positions on them.
- Sent Action Alerts: Action Alerts were sent via the e-newsletter, which is distributed to more than 19,000 people. These alerts described the priority bills, the issues they address, and actions that needed to be taken by the community to affect the legislative process. Alerts were sent in collaboration with partner organizations to ensure the greatest impact.
- VIRTUAL Lobby Day: Montgomery County legislators were invited to participate in the 4th annual lobby day to discuss priority issues for the upcoming Maryland General Assembly session.

Members of the Committee picked a bill to champion, which meant that each Commissioner was responsible for writing and submitting testimony and providing background on the bill during lobby day.

Champions included:

Stalking: Donna Rojas

Abortion Access: Jan Molino

Paid Family and Medical Leave: Diana Rubin

Marriage is No Defense: Nicole Drew

Safe Harbor: Betty Romero



POLICY & LEGISLATION (PAL) COMMITTEE

2022 COMMISSION PRIORITY BILLS FINAL REPORT

1

HB 0937/SB 0890- ABORTION ACCESS ACT - PASSED

LEAD SPONSORS: SENATOR DELORES KELLEY, DELEGATE ARIANA KELLY

This bill expands which medical professionals are qualified to perform abortions in Maryland and provides state support for clinical training in abortion care to these practitioners. It strengthens and streamlines insurance coverage for abortion care.

The governor vetoed the bill, which was overridden by the General Assembly. It will go into effect on July 1, 2022.

2

HB 0153/SB 0033- REPEAL OF SPOUSAL DEFENSE - FAILED IN CONFERENCE

LEAD SPONSORS: SENATOR SUSAN LEE, DELEGATE CHARLOTTE CRUTCHFIELD

This bill would have repealed an exemption in the criminal code for perpetrators of specified sexual crimes if the person was the victim's legal spouse at the time of the alleged rape or sexual offense.

This bill once again passed through the House and passed in the Senate with amendments that limited its scope. A Conference Committee voted to reject the changes made in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

3

HB 0008/SB 0275- TIME TO CARE ACT - PASSED

LEAD SPONSORS: SENATOR ANTONIO HAYES, DELEGATE KRIS VALDERAMMA

This bill establishes an insurance program so that employees can take up to 12 weeks of paid leave from their jobs to care for new children, other family members with serious health conditions or disabilities, or themselves. The job security and partial wage replacement offered by paid family and medical leave will provide economic security until people can return to the workforce.

The governor vetoed the bill, but the veto was overridden by the General Assembly. It will go into effect in two parts on June 1, 2022, and January 1, 2023.

4

HB 0148/SB 0328- STALKING - PASSED

LEAD SPONSORS: SENATOR JEFF WALDSTREICH, DELEGATE J. SANDY BARTLETT

This bill changes the definition of stalking to include stalking through electronic communication and tracking devices. This brings the law in line with the forms of stalking that are most widely used today.

This bill goes into effect on October 1, 2022.

5

HB 0833/SB 0768- SAFE HARBOR - FAILED IN CONFERENCE

LEAD SPONSORS: SENATOR SUSAN LEE, DELEGATE BROOKE LIERMAN

This bill would have provided a safe harbor for child victims of sex trafficking, preventing prosecution for acts committed as a result of trafficking, including prostitution and other related offenses. It also would have provided services and assistance to victims.

This bill passed in the House, and, after a delay in debate, passed in the Senate with amendments. A Conference Committee was established, but the bill failed to come up again before the end of session.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN 2022 VIRTUAL WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

Co-Chairs: Patti Maclay and Isabel Argoti
Emerging Leaders Chair: Angela Whitehead Quigley

The 42nd Annual Women's Legislative Briefing was held on Sunday, January 30, 2022. The briefing was once again held online to ensure everyone's health and safety due to COVID-19 concerns. Video greetings were sent from numerous elected officials, including Maryland Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, Maryland Congressman John Sarbanes, Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, County Executives Marc Elrich (Montgomery County), Angela Alsobrooks (Prince George's County) and Jan Gardner (Frederick County). Montgomery County Council President Gabe Albornoz and Councilmember Nancy Navarro also shared video greetings.

The theme was, "Voting Women Change Everything," and the keynote speaker was Melanie C. Campbell, President, and CEO of the National Council on Black Civic Participation. Her keynote address included the importance of voting, participating in community change, and the importance people have, particularly women of color, in advocating for their communities and families. Her address set the tone for the rest of the conference, which included four breakout sessions:

- Voting to Protect (Domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking)
- Voting for Access (Ensuring voting remains accessible and fair)
- Voting for Your Health (The intersectionality of health and the law)
- Educating the Vote (Educating the public about how to vote and the importance of voting)

The WLB was made possible by over 60 community sponsors, including major sponsors such as Kaiser Permanente, AARP Maryland, and Montgomery College.

The Chair's Networking session was also virtual and was held on April 30, 2022. The session focused on activities from the 2022 general assembly and included a wrap up from Senator Susan Lee (D-16) and Lauren Arikan (D-7).

Approximately 500 individuals attended the briefing from throughout Maryland. Feedback from

Participant feedback was exceptionally positive and included comments such as:


"I have been participating for years and I believe it's needed. It's a great opportunity to network and learn."

"I would recommend this because it gives and opportunity to learn about things they might not have thought about before."

"...Wonderful way to connect on so many important issues. In the time of COVID, there are few spaces and places to talk about issues that impact our lives like access to voting!"

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN 2022 VIRTUAL WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY
COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
and our many co-sponsoring organizations
invite you to the



V I R T U A L


Women's Legislative Briefing

2 0 2 2

Voting Women Change Everything

Sunday, January 30 • 12:30 – 5:00 p.m.

PROGRAM	
12:30 – 1:00 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions
1:00 – 1:55 p.m.	Keynote Address Melanie L. Campbell <i>President/CEO, The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation</i>
2:00 – 2:55 p.m.	Breakout Sessions I: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Voting to Protect● Voting for Access
3:00 – 3:55 p.m.	Breakout Sessions II: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Voting for Your Health● Educating the Vote
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Networking Reception and Closing



Early Bird Tickets are \$22 for adults (Cost increases to \$30 on January 28)
\$5 for students (middle school, high school, college and graduate school)

montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw/WLB

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN 2022 VIRTUAL WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

Thank You Sponsors!



AAUW Kensington-Rockville | AAUW Maryland | Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. - Theta Omega Omega Chapter | Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. - Xi Sigma Omega Chapter | Chevy Chase Women's Republican Club | Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. - Frederick County Alumnae Chapter | Emerge Maryland | Holloway & Norman Law Group | The J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association | Ivy Vine Charities, Inc. | League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, MD | Lincoln Park Historical Foundation | The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc. (MCASA) | Maryland Commission for Women | Maryland Federation of Business & Professional Women's Club Inc. | Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) | Montgomery County Business & Professional Women | Montgomery County Federation of Republican Women (MCFRW) | Montgomery County MD Chapter - National Organization for Women | Montgomery County Young Democrats | Montgomery Women | National Coalition Of 100 Black Women - Prince George's County Chapter | National Council for Negro Women - Montgomery County Maryland Section | National Council of Negro Women - Potomac Valley Section | National Pan-Hellenic Council of Montgomery Co., MD | Planned Parenthood Advocates for DC, Maryland NoVA | Pete Fosselman | Potomac Women's Republican Club | Prince George's County Commission for Women | Upper Montgomery Republican Women's Club | Women Business Owners of Montgomery County | Women's Law Center of Maryland | Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. - Eta Pi Zeta Chapter | Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. - Tau Delta Zeta Chapter



PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: CFW CHAIR, DONNA ROJAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JODI FINKELSTEIN, COMMISSIONER NICOLE Y. DREW, ESQ., EMERGING LEADERS CHAIR ANGELA WHITEHEAD QUIGLEY, WLB CO-CHAIR ISABEL ARGOTI, COMMISSIONER JAN MOLINO, MSW INTERN HOLLY MANCUSO, WLB CO-CHAIR PATTI MACLAY, DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS, OYIN THOMSON (WITH BABY JUDAH) COMMISSIONER ARLINDA CLARK, COMMISSIONER TONIA BUI, INTERN ASHLYN DAVIS, COMMISSIONER IJEOMA ENENDU, COMMISSIONER DIANA RUBIN, COMMISSIONER TONDALAYO ROYSTER, COMMISSIONER BETTY ROMERO

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Chair: Ijeoma Enendu

Committee Members: Donna Rojas, Patti Maclay, and Nicole Y. Drew, Esq.

In addition to the regular programming outlined on the next page, the Committee partnered with Montgomery Women to celebrate Women’s History Month by honoring women “making history” in the community. Thirty-one women were showcased each day for the month of March on the social media sites for both organizations. The celebration cumulated in an online virtual event on March 24 where attendees heard from a panel of women history-makers, who shared their path to success and their insight on how to inspire other women to create change.

**WOMEN MAKING
HERSTORY**

March 24 at 7:00 p.m. ET via Zoom

Join us for a virtual presentation showcasing the Montgomery County “Women Making History” campaign. Hear from a panel of women history-makers who will share their path to success and thoughts on inspiring more women to make history!

The poster features a dark blue background with a pink wave-like shape at the top. The title 'WOMEN MAKING HERSTORY' is in large, bold, pink letters, with the 'O' in 'HERSTORY' replaced by a pink female symbol. Below the title, the date and time are listed in white. At the bottom, there is a white text box with a dark blue background containing the event description.

Montgomery Women and Montgomery County Commission for Women

Women Making History

Nominate a woman you know who is making a difference in Montgomery County!

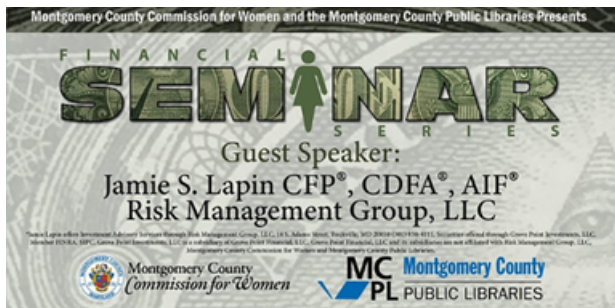
The poster has a light pink background. At the top, it says 'Montgomery Women and Montgomery County Commission for Women'. Below that, 'Women Making History' is written in a large, white, curved font. Underneath, it asks to nominate a woman making a difference in Montgomery County. At the bottom, there is an illustration of five diverse women of various ethnicities and styles.

Eligibility

- Unselfish leadership and hard work in their field
- Exceptional leadership in civic activities
- Developing or supporting programs resulting in positive social action
- Inspiration to others as a role model
- Nominee must reside or be employed in Montgomery County

The poster has a light pink background. At the top, it says 'Eligibility'. Below that, there are five white rounded rectangular boxes, each containing one of the eligibility criteria. At the bottom, there are two logos: 'MONTGOMERY WOMEN' and 'MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN'.

PROGRAMMING



Financial Health & Wellness Series:

Montgomery County Public Libraries partnered with the Commission to offer a series of financial seminars that walked participants through the ins and outs of "all things" money. Topics included Financial Planning 101, Planning for Retirement, Social Security and Medicare, and Divorce and Money. The series ran on October 5, 2021, October 12, 2021, October 19, 2021, October 26, 2021, March 8, 2022, March 15, 2022, March 22, 2022, and March 29, 2022. The seminars were free and offered virtually through Zoom.



Women's Sexual Health & Wellness: Menopause/Sexual Wellness:

This free seminar was offered virtually on November 18, 2021. The purpose of this seminar was to help empower individuals to hold healthy conversations about sex, menopause, and how sex impacts the body as people age. Topics covered included: partner communication, health and medications, impact of health sex and wellness on mental health. Dr. Jennifer W. Lin, M.D. and Dr. M. Heather Sine, M.D. presented.



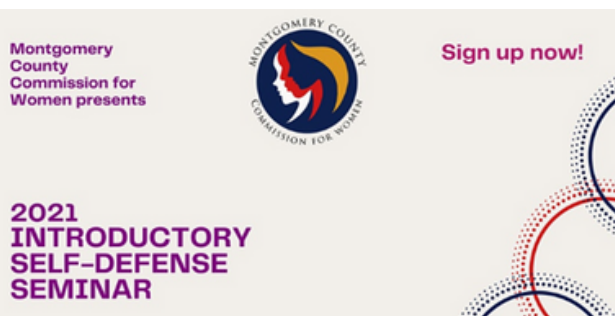
Separation and Divorce: What Do I Need to Know?

The Commission once again partnered with the Montgomery County Bar Association, Family Law section to provide free seminars on the "ins" and "outs" of going through a separation and divorce in Maryland. Participants learned about the Methods of Dispute Resolution, When and Where to File, Types of Divorce and Grounds, Financial Statements, Alimony, Property and Equitable Distribution, Role of the Attorney, and Domestic Violence/Orders of Protection. Seminars were held the first Wednesday of every month from 7-8:30pm.



Create Your Path: A 5-Part Career Series to Creating Your Personal Brand:

Throughout this five-part career series, participants heard from human resource professionals on topics including Resume Writing (October 4, 2021), Interviewing Skills (October 11, 2021), Networking/Elevator Pitch, (October 18, 2021), Wage Negotiation (October 25, 2021) and Building Your Own Online Brand (November 1, 2021) All classes were free and held online.



Introductory Self-Defense Seminar:

This one-hour introductory self-defense seminar provided teen & adult women of all fitness levels with information that may reduce their risk of exposure to violence and introduced them to the physical aspects of self-defense. Virtual classes were held on October 13, 2021, October 28, 2021, November 23, 2021, December 7, 2021, December 16, 2021, April 7, 2022, April 12, 2022, April 19, 2022, April 26, 2022, April 28, 2022, May 10, 2022, May 17, 2022, and May 19, 2022. All classes were taught by a R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) certified instructor.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Isabel Argoti

Members: Tonia Bui, Patti Maclay, Chai Shenoy

Public Relations Committee members are responsible for providing guidance on the promotion of CFW programs and events. The committee continued to publicize Commission for Women events, programs, and overall activities of the Commission on social media, this includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and our weekly newsletter. The CFW weekly newsletter is sent every Friday afternoon and reaches nearly 20,000 people. The committee keeps a content calendar to note any special events, awareness days/months, and holidays to promote on social media and in our newsletter.

In 2021, the CFW brochure was updated and a one-pager was created to better accommodate digital communications. The updates reflected current commission programs, updated photos, and social media channels. New promotional items were also purchased and updated to reflect the newest logo of the Commission.

The committee also had the opportunity to participate in several community events where Commissioners tabled and promoted the work and programs of the Commission directly to community members. The committee spearheaded the promotion of the annual Women Making History campaign in March 2022. Graphics for each awardee were created and promoted across social media channels and in collaboration with Montgomery Women.

Lastly, the Commission was honored with several proclamations from the County Executive and the County Council in recognition of our various causes and priorities.



Commissioner Nicole Y. Drew (left) and Chair Donna Rojas (right) at the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Press Conference and Proclamation.



Commissioners Jan Molino, Patti Maclay, Tonia Bui, and Arlinda Clark at the Suffrage Marker Unveiling at Sandy Spring Museum



Commissioners Tonia Bui and Isabel Argoti tabled at the Wheaton Arts Parade & Festival

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE



Councilmember Will Jawando presents a Council proclamation in honor of the 49th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade.



As part of Women's History Month, Commission Chair Donna Rojas spoke at the County Council Proclamation presentation recognizing the Fire Fit, Fire Smart program

Committee members also worked with the Commission's Executive Committee to publish statements on behalf of the Commission related to numerous public issues.



COMMISSION FOR WOMEN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLUSTER



The Montgomery County Commission for Women would like to formally congratulate Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on her Senate confirmation to the United States Supreme Court. Her historic role as the first Black woman to sit on the Supreme Court is one that continues to inspire and invigorate people across the nation.

Judge Jackson is an example of the importance of diversity and representation at all levels of government. Her experiences and credentials as a law clerk, a public defender, in private practice, on the United States Sentencing Commission, as a United States District Court Judge, and as a United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit Judge all highlight her profound skill and impressive legal acumen. We are confident she will continue to judge with wisdom, integrity, and thoughtfulness.

The Commission for Women is proud to support Judge Jackson as she continues to prepare to serve on the Supreme Court. We wish her all the best in this new and honorable position.

STRATEGIC PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE (SPRE)

Co-Chairs: Betty Romero and Jan Molino

Committee Members: Donna Rojas, Tondalayo Royster, Arlinda Clark, Tonia Bui, Diana Rubin, Chai Shenoy

The SPRE committee began meeting again in earnest in July 2021. One of the first tasks the Committee completed was to change the name of the Committee from Research and Evaluation to Strategic Planning, Research and Evaluation. Members felt it was important that the committee's name encompassed all the work of the committee.

The new committee members learned from veteran committee members and spent time reviewing previous Committee documents and strategic plans. This enabled the Committee to set the stage for planning and implementing a strategic planning meeting with the entire Commission.



50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Co-Chairs: Patti Maclay and Isabel Argoti

Committee Members: Donna Rojas, Ijeoma Enendu, Diana Rubin

The year 2022 marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Montgomery County Commission for Women. The Commission was established under law in 1972. The mandate of the Commission is to advise the County Executive, the County Council, the public, and agencies of the county, state and federal governments on issues concerning women in Montgomery County. (Montgomery County Code Sec. 27 – 29) .

On June 7, 2022, we celebrated 50 years of the incredible work, accomplishments, and triumphs of the Montgomery County Commission for Women. The Commission strives to improve the lives of women in the County by identifying inequities in laws and policies and taking proactive measures to create remedies and solutions with our elected officials and community groups. Since 1972, we have honored and celebrated over 200 commissioners who have served the women of our county.

All year long, we highlighted the history of the Commission and our various initiatives. We held a 50th anniversary picnic at Wheaton Regional Park where over 200 members of the community joined us in celebration.

On July 17, 2022 we also hosted a 50th Anniversary Celebration where current and past Commissioners, elected officials, and invited guests honored the work of the Commission. County Executive Marc Elrich and County Council President Gabe Albornoz issued a joint proclamation recognizing the Commission's extraordinary accomplishments in advancing and protecting women's rights since its establishment in 1972. County Executive Elrich, Council President Albornoz, and Commission Chair Donna Rojas also led a ceremonial groundbreaking for the burial of a CFW time capsule containing artifacts from the past 50 years. The time capsule will be opened in 50 years, and contains the following items:

- 2022 WLB recording
- Map of Montgomery County
- Suffrage recording
- Picture of the county executive and county council
- Photo of all current Commissioners
- Amanda Gorman's poem from President Biden's inauguration
- Picture of Vice President Kamala Harris
- COVID-19 mask
- Winning Entries from the 2022 Girl Power Contest
- 2022 Legislative Priorities
- Letter from the current CFW Chair to future CFW Chair
- Women's History Month pen
- Quilt photos
- 50th Anniversary Proclamation
- List of CFW accomplishments through 2022
- Women's archives list
- 2018 Status of Women report



County Council President Gabe Albornoz, County Executive Marc Elrich, CFW Chair Donna Rojas, Councilmember Nancy Navarro, and Councilmember Andrew Friedson issue a joint proclamation recognizing the CFW.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Council President Gabe Albornoz, CFW Chair Donna Rojas, and County Executive Marc Elrich break ground to bury a CFW time capsule.



Commissioners Ijeoma Enendu, Janet LaValle, Tondalayo Royster, Donna Rojas, Isabel Argoti, and Betty Romero



Past and Present Commissioners gather around the time capsule.



Commissioners and staff at the 50th Anniversary Picnic at Wheaton Regional Park.



Past and Present Commissioners and staff at the 50th Anniversary Picnic at Wheaton Regional Park.



Commissioners Donna Rojas, Arlinda Clark, and Betty Romero at the 50th Anniversary Picnic at Wheaton Regional Park

LIAISON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Respectfest

Liaison: Commissioner Angela Whitehead Quigley

The logo for RespectFEST features the word "Respect" in a bold, orange, lowercase sans-serif font, followed by "FEST" in a bold, purple, uppercase sans-serif font.

RespectFest is a virtual and in-person festival for youth aimed at raising awareness to reduce the rates of teen dating violence and provide education on healthy relationships and consent.

A virtual RespectFest 2022 was held March 21–March 25. Virtual events included workshops and webinars geared towards parents and students. RespectFest was also held in person on March 27 at the Wheaton Community Recreation Center where over 600 individuals attended. The Montgomery County Commission for Women hosted a table where individuals could participate in activities that centered on learning about healthy relationships.

The CFW liaison also served as a judge in the Choose Respect Montgomery Video Contest. The contest raises awareness on the issue of teen dating violence, both through the creation of public service announcements as well as the distribution of the PSAs on social media in the schools. Students who followed contest rules received 10 student service-learning hours. Participants submitted 346 entries (by 574 students) from 59 different schools.

Montgomery College Scholarship

Liaison Members: Patti Maclay and Isabel Argoti



The Commission, in conjunction with the Montgomery College Foundation, established a STEM Scholarship to support students pursuing careers in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. The \$10,500 endowment, funded by individual gifts, will support current Montgomery College students now and in the future.

As of June 2022, the principal value of the scholarship was \$15,256.00. Students Nfoni Ekole and Hollis Gilstrap received scholarships for the 2021–2022 Academic Year.

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

Liaison: Nicole Y. Drew, Esq.

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) was established by the Montgomery County Council in 2006 with the mission of reducing the incidence of domestic violence and creating a safe community for families to live free of abuse.

The nineteen-member board is comprised of six public members, two representatives from non-governmental or non-profit domestic violence service/advocacy organizations, and eleven agency representatives of the county and state government who coordinate efforts relating to domestic violence prevention and safety. The CFW's executive director is an appointed member to the DVCC. The executive director may send a designee in his/her stead. A full list of DVCC accomplishments can be [found in their annual report](#).